

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., said today, "I am outraged and stunned by the unjust treatment inflicted upon Reverend James Meeks and his family by Chicago Police Sergeant Clifford of the Roseland community's 5th District Operational Services. I am pleased that Mayor Daley promptly issued a statement of concern, embarrassment and launched a full investigation."

Jackson added, "Reverend Meeks is a staple in the Roseland community. He has doggedly worked to rid the community of drugs and liquor stores and enrich the lives of his parishioners and the people of the Roseland community. He is a well-known and highly respected religious leader in Roseland and Chicago. Therefore, the violation he experienced is all the more appalling.

"As a minister and an elected official, Reverend State Senator Meeks understands and appreciates the daunting tasks that the men and women 'in blue' face day in and day out. They risk and sometimes sacrifice their lives to secure our streets and our families. However, the dangerous and threatening actions of Sergeant Clifford significantly erode the public trust and confidence in the Police Department.

"A police sergeant should exemplify policing at its best and lead rank-and-file officers by example, not disrespect law-abiding citizens and abuse the power of the shield. **Therefore, we hope Sergeant Clifford will be removed from our streets until a thorough and independent investigation is completed.**

"I talked again this morning with Rev. Meeks, who is preaching for a fellow clergyman in Las Vegas. What does he want out of this? What do we want out of this? ***We want a policy - not polarization*** ! Reverend

Meeks and these elected officials are seeking revamped departmental ***policies***

where necessary, with new safeguards and procedures designed to eliminate any repeat violations

***against any citizen***

. We urge everyone - our community activists, leaders and citizens of good will to function within the discipline of seeking

***corrective policy changes***

and not contribute in any way to a spirit of polarization.

"In sum, the actions of Sgt. Clifford undermine the good work and community relations of the professional, hard working and brave officers of the Chicago police force," concluded Jackson.